

Basin Study Program Semi-Annual Basin Study Status Report

Name of Study: Upper Deschutes River Basin Study

Study Manager: Mike Relf

Date: January 14, 2015

1) What is the general status of the study?

The Deschutes Basin Board of Control (DBBC) is the non-Federal cost-share partner for the Upper Deschutes Basin Study and is acting on behalf of, and as the fiscal agent for, the Basin Study Work Group (BSWG). Reclamation and BSWG began joint work on the Upper Deschutes River Basin Study in September 2014. Work is progressing on development of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) and the Plan of Study (POS), which are targeted for completion in the spring of 2015.

2) What stakeholder participation has taken place since last status report?

This is the first status report for this study, covering the period from September through December 2014. During this period, BSWG finalized a formal charter which identifies member entities and defines processes for active stakeholder participation through BSWG and its Steering Committee. BSWG involves more than 30 representatives participating on behalf of a wide range of interests including fisheries and environmental groups, irrigated agriculture, municipalities, recreation, government agencies, and others. Meetings of the BSWG Steering Committee were held on September 23 and November 3, 2014.

3) What tasks listed in the Plan of Study have been completed since last status report?

The Plan of Study is currently being developed. Potential tasks are being generated through work by three BSWG subgroups organized on a geographic/hydrologic basis for the Upper Deschutes, Whychus Creek, and Crooked River subbasins. From these efforts, the BSWG Steering Committee and Reclamation will develop scope, schedule, and estimated costs for tasks to be included in the overall POS.

Specific tasks completed during the September-December 2014 time frame are described below:

- DBBC executed a grant agreement with the Oregon Water Resources Department regarding funding for the \$750,000 non-Federal Basin Study cost share
- BSWG developed its Charter, approved by the Steering Committee September 23
- BSWG held September 23 and November 3 Steering Committee meetings; multiple subgroup meetings were also held to address subbasin-specific issues
- DBBC adopted Public Contracting Rules and Procedures to be used in potential contracting for services/assistance to support completion of non-Federal Basin Study tasks

- DBBC executed a contract with GSI Water Solutions, Inc. for assistance with POS development and facilitation of stakeholder (BSWG Steering Committee) meetings
- Reclamation completed a fact sheet using the Basin Study Program template, uploaded to the internal SharePoint site December 15
- Reclamation sent a December 18 letter to the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs (CTWS) requesting a meeting to discuss the Basin Study process/objectives and CTWS interests
- Reclamation's Study Manager sent a December 5 email to the Reclamation study team to introduce the Basin Study and initiate coordination on upcoming tasks
- Reclamation's Study Manager and the non-Federal Study Lead collaborated on an initial draft MOA
- Reclamation and the BSWG Steering Committee collaborated on an initial draft Communications and Outreach Plan
- Through key input from the subgroups, BSWG and Reclamation began framing key tasks to be considered for inclusion in the POS

4) What are the planned tasks listed in the Plan of Study for the next reporting period?

The MOA and POS are planned to be completed during the next reporting period. Subsequent study tasks that will also be planned for completion during the next reporting period, i.e., by June 2015, will be identified in the final POS.

5) Is the study on schedule to be completed within two years of the signing of the Memorandum of Agreement? Have all of the tasks listed in the Plan of Study that were scheduled to be initiated by this point in time been initiated? Have all of the tasks listed in the Plan of Study that were scheduled to be completed by this point in time been completed?

Work is currently on track for completion of the MOA and POS within the next reporting period. When complete, the POS will further define projected schedules for specific tasks. The schedule will plan for the Basin Study to be fully completed within three years after the MOA is signed.

6) Are there any issues, concerns, or problems regarding this study?

Prior collaborative efforts and water planning studies in the Deschutes River basin have provided a solid foundation for initiation of the Upper Deschutes River Basin Study. As a result, it is important that Reclamation and DBBC/BSWG assess key needs for achieving Basin Study goals and identify specific study tasks, both to capitalize on prior efforts and to optimize the utilization of Basin Study resources.